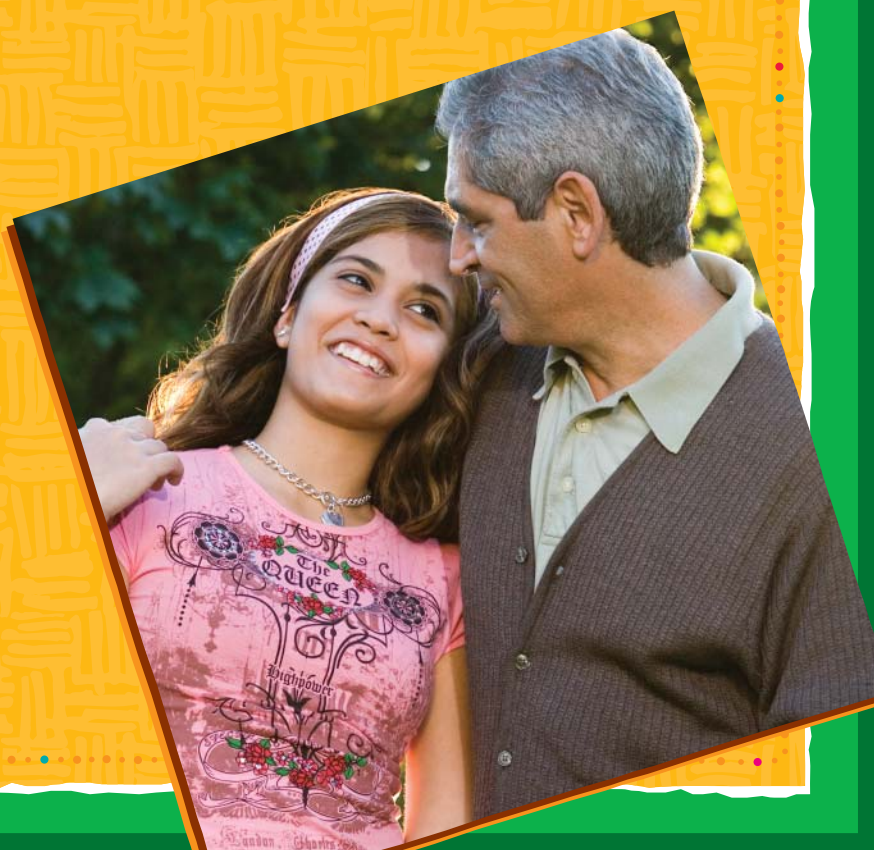




¡Gracias Papá!

A fotonovela about a young woman,
an older guy, and a loving father.






Introduction

iGracias Papá! tells the story of 14-year-old Yaneth and her experience with sexual coercion. Sexual coercion is when someone tries to sway or pressure you into having sex when you do not want to. Sometimes adults try to pressure teenagers into having sex. When this happens, the adult is taking advantage of the sexual and emotional inexperience of the teen. Plus, whenever an adult has sex with someone under the age of 18, he or she is breaking the law.

An unwanted sexual relationship can also be harmful to your health. It can lead to unwanted pregnancy, infections spread by sexual activity, low self-esteem, shame, guilt, and anxiety.

As you read this novela, see if you can spot some of the coercive behavior David uses with Yaneth. Knowing how to spot and react to this kind of behavior can help reduce your, or even a friend's, chance of being in an unhealthy relationship.

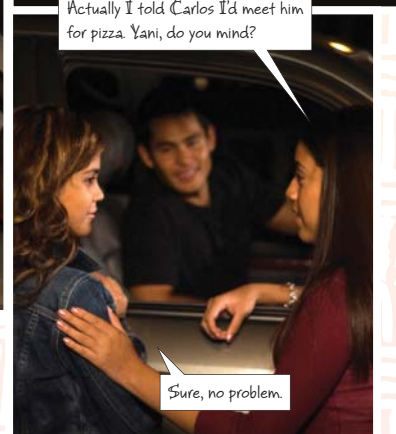


At her dad's company picnic, Yaneth & friend Maria can't take their eyes off of David, dad's new employee.

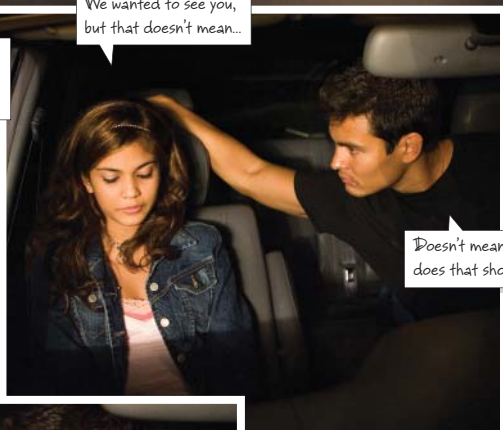
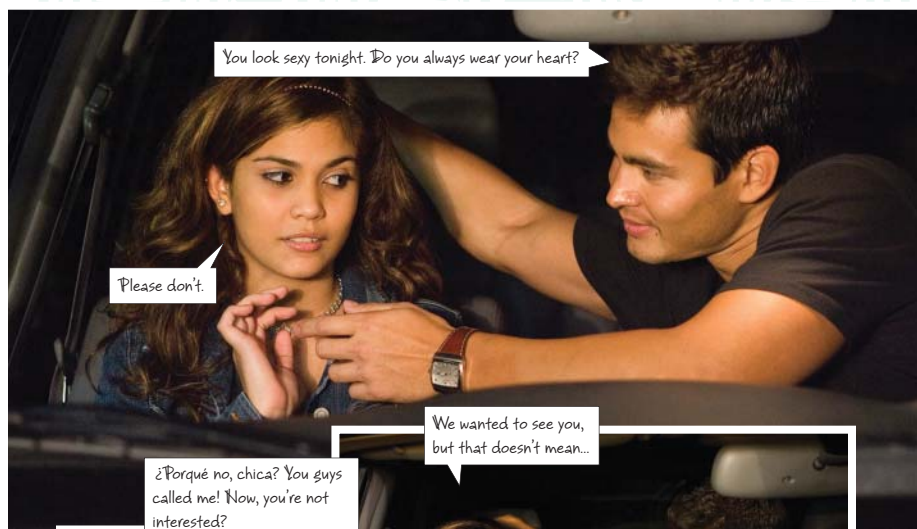




Later that night at the movies...



On the drive home...



Yani makes it home...



Maria, this is Yaneth. Call me as soon as you get this. You won't believe what happened.



Yaneth, are you ok?
Can I come in?



Quique, dad would
kill me if he knew.

Knew what? ¿Que pasó?

It's that guy David who just started working for him. We texted him and he actually showed up outside the movies.



And?

He offered to drive us home, and...

You went sola?

Well, yeh, Maria wanted to meet up with Carlos.

Yaneth-Lesson numero uno:
Never get into a car alone
with a guy you don't know, or
I should say, trust.

You're probably right Quique.
But he's so cute!

Yeh, he's so cute, he's already got a couple
of kids. And he's not married to their
mothers either. They're about your age.

Did he do anything
to you?

He wanted to, but I managed
to get him to take me home.

You did the right
thing. Try to get
some rest now.
My lips are sealed.

Meanwhile, in mom and dad's bedroom...



Next day at dad's office...



That's my baby you're talking about! And you should know there are laws in this country against having sex with a minor.



Imagine you had a daughter David. And an older guy tried taking advantage of her. How would that make you feel?



Bad, sir. It won't happen again.

You're right about that. I want my Yaneth to finish high school and go to college. And I'm not ready to be a grandfather yet.

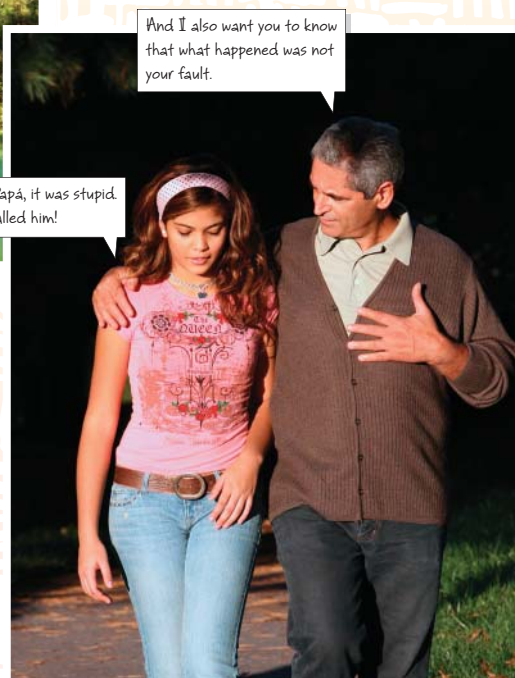


I trusted that you were more of a man David. I don't want to see you near my daughter. Or any other young girl for that matter.



Yes sir.

After dinner that night...



I understand angel, and maybe you should have considered the risk, but he shouldn't have taken advantage.

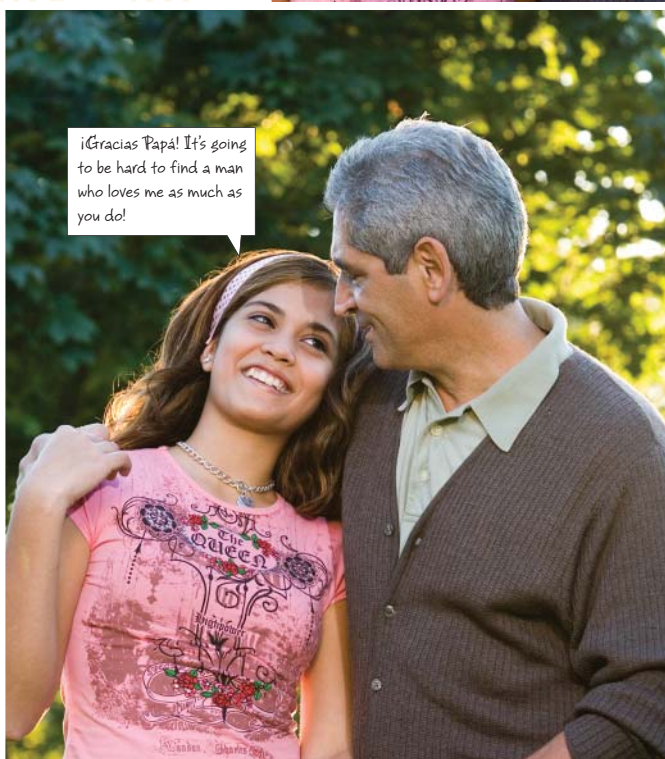


I know. He was really pushy, but I got him to take me home.

I'm very proud of you. You are a bright, beautiful girl who deserves everything out of life, including an education, a profession, and a man who truly loves you.



¡Gracias Papá! It's going to be hard to find a man who loves me as much as you do!





Think about it...

In this novela, David tries to “coerce” Yaneth into a sexual relationship she does not want. There are a number of signs to look for that can help you or a friend avoid sexual coercion. Coercion may or may not involve force or threats. The adult may flatter, bribe, or touch you in a “friendly” way (for example, hug you, touch your knee, or kiss your cheek). If you object, the adult may try to make you feel like what he or she is doing is normal and that you are being unreasonable. Most often, the adult first “tests” you to see how you will react to his or her advances. Later, the adult will try to dismiss any doubt or objections that you may have. Sometimes the adult may try to take you away from people who support you. For example, he or she might say that you should hang out with older friends like him or her because your friends are immature.

Did you spot any of the following ways that David used to “test” Yaneth?

- Bribes: “I give you a soda and you give me names and numbers.”
- Flattery: “You look sexy tonight.”
- Touching: Puts his arm around her.
- Guilt: “I thought you liked me. Is this how you show it?”

If you feel that someone is trying to pressure you or a friend into an unwanted sexual relationship, talk to a trusted adult (for example, a parent, teacher, or school counselor), or call the toll-free Girls and Boys Town National Hotline at 1-800-448-3000.

For more information on sexual coercion and healthy relationships visit:

www.chooserespect.org

www.varapelaws.org

www.paramihija.com





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www.paramihija.com & www.varapelaws.org